

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 SP-02 NSCE-00
PM-05 DODE-00 SSM-03 ACDA-12 HA-05 L-03 /091 W
-----063186 201816Z /50

O 201625Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7181
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T BEIRUT 1503

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, MILI, LE, IS
SUBJ: SOUTH LEBANON: NO LAW NORTH OF LITANI

1. THERE IS AN ESSENTIAL FACT ABOUT SITUATION ON GROUND
HERE THAT WE MUST BEAR IN MIND IN WORKING OUT ARRANGEMENTS
FOR UN FORCE IN SOUTH LEBANON; SOUTHERN LIMIT OF ADF IS
THE ZAHRANI RIVER, NOT THE LITANI. BETWEEN THE ZAHRANI AND THE
LITANI THERE ARE NEITHER SYRIAN NOR LEBANESE FORCES, ONLY
PALESTINIAN. ACTUALLY, SYRIAN LINE RUNS ROUGHLY FROM REFINERY
AT ZAHRANI VILLAGE TO KAHR HUNAH, WHICH IS WELL NORTH OF ZAHRANI
RIVER. A LOOK AT MAP WILL SHOW THAT THIS LEAVES PALESTINIAN BELT
ROUGHLY TWENTY KILOMETERS DEEP RUNNING RIGHT ACROSS LEBANON FROM
COAST TO MOUNTAINS.

2. IF UN FORCE CONCEPT IS TO WORK, AND REFUGEES IN
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NORTH ARE TO HAVE ACCESS TO SOUTH, ADF WILL HAVE TO ADVANCE
TO LITANI. THERE SHOULD BE NO GAP BETWEEN ADF AND
UNIFIL.

3. RELATED SUBJECT: PRESIDENT CHAMOUN CLAIMS IRAQIS ARE
SENDING LARGE QUANTITIES OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING
TANKS, TO PALESTINIANS VIA SYRIA. (DANY CHAMOUN SAYS

FORTY TANKS ARRIVED IN LEBANON ON MARCH 19, BUT UNDER

CONTROL OF SYRIANS WHO WILL PUT THEM WHERE THE PALESTINIANS CAN'T GET THEIR HANDS ON THEM.) CAMILLE CHAMOUN HAS CALLED THIS TO ATTENTION FONMIN BOUTROS, WHO SAID IF TRUE THIS WAS VERY DANGEROUS DEVELOPMENT AND HE WOULD LOOK INTO IMMEDIATELY. HE ASKED ME WHAT LEBANESE SHOULD DO. I SUGGESTED HE TALK TO SYRIANS AS FIRST STEP. HE NOTED SYRIAN LEADERS LEAVING FOR INDIA TOMORROW OR NEXT DAY BUT SAID HE WOULD SEE WHAT HE COULD DO.

4. WE ARE TOLD PALESTINIANS ARE RATHER PLEASED WITH RESULTS OF ISRAELI OFFENSIVE BECAUSE IT HAS OPENED UP THE COFFERS OF THE GULF STATES AGAIN AND THEY ARE RECEIVING PROMISES OF AID AND SUPPORT ACROSS THE BOARD. IF ARAB SISTER STATES SUCH AS IRAQ ARE GOING TO START REINFORCING PALESTINIANS (SHI'A DEPUTIES ALLEGE 400 IRAQI VOLUNTEERS SEEN AT GHAZIYA JUST NORTH OF ZAHRANI AFTERNOON OF MARCH 19), AND PARTICULARLY IF THEY START GIVING THEM TANKS, WE ARE IN FOR SERIOUS INTERNAL, IF NOT AREA, TROUBLES. CHRISTIAN MILITANTS WILL NOT STAND STILL FOR IT, AND THERE MAY BE A DONEYBROOK WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY DRAG IN OTHER ARAB STATES.
PARKER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BEIRUT01503
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780122-1185
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780349/aaaabpeo.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c359f2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3273802
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOUTH LEBANON: NO LAW NORTH OF LITANI
TAGS: PBOR, MILI, LE, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c359f2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014